

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1. (currently amended) A support and enclosure structure for fluorescent light bulbs comprising;

an elongated, hollow tube having opposite ends, an outer wall and an inner volume;

at least one ventilation opening extending through said outer wall and permitting air flow between said inner volume of said tube and the surrounding environment for cooling of a fluorescent light bulb held therewithin, said at least one ventilation opening being formed over at least part of the light-emitting tube of the fluorescent light bulb;

end cap means mounted on said opposite ends of said tube, said end cap means adapted to engage opposite ends of ~~the~~ a fluorescent light bulb and support the fluorescent light bulb within said inner volume of said tube free of contact with said outer wall of said tube; and

said tube constructed of a generally rigid, at least partially translucent material such that light emitted by ~~the~~ a fluorescent light bulb held within said tube generally radiates through said outer wall of said tube into the surrounding environment.

2. (original) The support and enclosure structure for fluorescent light bulbs of claim 1 wherein said hollow tube is generally cylindrical in shape.

3. (currently amended) The support and enclosure structure for fluorescent light bulbs of claim 1 wherein said ventilation opening comprises a longitudinally extended slot formed in said outer wall of said hollow tube extending generally parallel with the center longitudinal axis of said hollow tube, said slot having a length of at least one-half the total length of said hollow tube.

4. (original) The support and enclosure structure for fluorescent light bulbs of claim

1 1 wherein said ventilation opening comprises a plurality of holes generally longitudinally spaced  
2 along said hollow tube and extending through said outer wall.

3  
4 5. (original) The support and enclosure structure for fluorescent light bulbs of claim  
5 1 wherein said end cap means each comprise a generally cylindrical plug having an external diameter  
6 approximately equal to or slightly greater than the internal diameter of said hollow tube, said  
7 generally cylindrical plug being generally hollow and having an electrode opening extending  
8 generally coaxially therethrough, said generally cylindrical plug further including a outer flange  
9 operative to prevent said end cap means from overextending into said hollow tube.

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11 6. (original) The support and enclosure structure for fluorescent light bulbs of claim  
12 1 further comprising a wire channel formed in the outer surface of said outer wall of said hollow tube  
13 and extending along the length of said hollow tube, said wire channel operative to provide a channel  
14 for an electrode wire projecting from a fluorescent bulb housed within said hollow tube to run back  
15 along said hollow tube yet be safely retained adjacent said hollow tube to generally prevent  
16 accidental damage to an electrode wire.

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18 7. (original) The support and enclosure structure for fluorescent light bulbs of claim  
19 1 further comprising mounting end cap means adapted to fit over said end cap means and on to said  
20 hollow tube facilitating mounting of said hollow tube within a fluorescent light fixture.

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22 8. (currently amended) A support and enclosure structure for fluorescent light bulbs  
23 comprising;

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25 an elongated, hollow tube having opposite ends, an outer wall and an inner volume;

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27 at least one ventilation opening extending through said outer wall and permitting air flow between  
28 said inner volume of said tube and the surrounding environment for cooling of a fluorescent

1 light bulb held therewithin, said at least one ventilation opening consisting of a longitudinally  
2 extended slot formed in said outer wall of said hollow tube extending generally parallel with  
3 the center longitudinal axis of said hollow tube, said slot having a length of at least one-half  
4 the total length of said hollow tube;

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6 end cap means mounted on said opposite ends of said tube, said end cap means adapted to engage  
7 opposite ends of a fluorescent light bulb and support the fluorescent light bulb within said  
8 inner volume of said tube free of contact with said outer wall of said tube;

9  
10 mounting end cap means adapted to fit over said end cap means and on to said hollow tube  
11 facilitating mounting of said hollow tube within the a fluorescent light fixture; and

12  
13 said tube constructed of a generally rigid, at least partially translucent material such that light  
14 emitted by the a fluorescent light bulb held within said tube generally radiates through said  
15 outer wall of said tube into the surrounding environment.

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17 **9.** (original) The support and enclosure structure for fluorescent light bulbs of claim  
18 **8** wherein said mounting end caps each further comprise at least one mounting pin and at least one  
19 wire slot formed in the side wall of said mounting end cap, said wire slot operative to permit  
20 electrical wires to extend therethrough to connect to the fluorescent light bulb held within said tube.

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22 **10.** (new) A support and enclosure structure for fluorescent light bulbs comprising;  
23  
24 an elongated, hollow tube having opposite ends, an outer wall and an inner volume;  
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26 at least one ventilation opening extending through said outer wall and permitting air flow between  
27 said inner volume of said tube and the surrounding environment for cooling of a fluorescent  
28 light bulb held therewithin, said at least one ventilation opening being formed over at least

1 part of the light-emitting tube of the fluorescent light bulb, said ventilation opening  
2 consisting of a longitudinally extended slot formed in said outer wall of said hollow tube  
3 extending generally parallel with the center longitudinal axis of said hollow tube, said slot  
4 having a length of at least one-half the total length of said hollow tube;

5  
6 end cap means mounted on said opposite ends of said tube, said end cap means adapted to engage  
7 opposite ends of the fluorescent light bulb and support the fluorescent light bulb within said  
8 inner volume of said tube free of contact with said outer wall of said tube; and

9  
10 said tube constructed of a generally rigid, at least partially translucent material such that light  
11 emitted by the fluorescent light bulb held within said tube generally radiates through said  
12 outer wall of said tube into the surrounding environment.

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14 **11. (new)** The support and enclosure structure for fluorescent light bulbs of claim **10**  
15 wherein said hollow tube has an outer wall thickness between one-sixth ( $1/6$ ) and one-third ( $1/3$ ) of  
16 the diameter of said hollow tube.